

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4878

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN PFOR XF

SUBJ: SCALI/BOUTEFLIKA DISCUSSION OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PLO

1. DURING HOUR AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MEETING, NOV 8,
AMB SCALI ASSURED GA PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA OF USG PLANS
TO OFFER MAXIMUM SECURITY FOR PLO REPRESENTATIVES
AND STILL PERMIT THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN UN DEBATEIN
ATMOSPHERE OF DIGNITY.

2. US LEANED TOWARD OFFERING LODGING OF PLO ON GOVERNOR'S
ISLAND, WITH TRANSPORT TO AND FROM UN BY HELICOPTER. OUR
VIEW WAS THAT CONFORTABLE ACCOMMODATIONS WITH MAXIMUM
POSSIBLE SECURITY COULD BE ASSURED AT GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

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PREFERRED OPTION IN NO WAY INTENDED TO ISOLATE OR IMPOSE

UNDUE RESTRICTIONS UPON PLO. SECURITY PLANNING WAS MADE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, BY PLO PRESS LEAKS OUTLINING THIS POSSIBILITY. RESPONSIBLE US OFFICIALS BELIEVE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT IT STILL OFFERS BEST POSSIBILITY FROM SECURITY VIEW.

3. SCALI SAID WE CONTINUE WEIGH ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING HOTEL. BUT EACH OF THESE REQUIRES GROUND TRANSPORTATION, WHICH SERIOUSLY INCREASED SECURITY PROBLEM.

4. BOUTEFLIKA SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY BOTH OUR DESIRE TO ASSURE A SAFE VISIT, AND THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DOING SO. HE TOO REGRETTED PRESS LEAKS FROM PLO. ONE HAD TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WITH PLO, WHICH "TALKED TOO MUCH". HE APPRECIATED THAT GOVERNOR'S ISLAND DID OFFER BEST PROSPECT FOR SECURE ACCOMMODATIONS. IN VIEW OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM IT APPARENTLY POSED FOR PLO, HOWEVER, BOUTEFLIKA SUGGESTED THAT US PRESENT PLO WITH ALTERNATIVES, EMPHASIZING THAT GOVERNOR'S ISLAND WOULD BE FIRST PREFERENCE FROM SECURITY VIEW AND THAT OTHERS WERE COMPARATIVELY LESS SECURE DESPITE BEST US EFFORTS TO PROTECT ALL. PLO COULD MAKE ITS OWN CHOICE, REALIZING SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. IF NONE OF ALTERNATIVES WAS ACCEPTABLE, PLO COULD STAY AT UN HEADQUARTERS. BOUTEFLIKA SUGGESTED THAT WE JOIN HIM IN MAKING SEPARATE APPROACHES TO HEAD OF ARAB GROUP FOR NOV, EGYPTIAN PERMREP MEGUID, TO ENCOURAGE MEGUID TO CONVEY TO PLO THAT USG INTENTIONS ARE SINCERE AND THAT PRIME CONSIDERATION IS NOT HINDERING PLO MISSION OR ACCESS TO PUBLIC, BUT SECURITY.

5. BOUTEFLIKA SAID THAT RESTRICTING PLO MEMBERS ALSO WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM, SINCE ARAFAT WISHED RETINUE OF CHIEF OF STATE. BOUTEFLIKA NEXT SUGGESTED THAT WE DROP 25-MILE RESTRICTION FOR PLO VISITORS ON GROUNDS IT UNNECESSARY AND DEMEANING TO PLO WHICH DIDN'T PLAN TOURIST VISITS IN ANY EVENT.

6. THROUGHOUT, BOUTEFLIKA WAS FULLY UNDERSTANDING OF MAGNITUDE OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES INVOLVED. HE RECOGNIZED PROBLEM IN ACCOMMODATING THEM IN HOTELS WAS NOT ONLY POSSIBILITY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMONSTRATIONS AND THREATS BUT BOMBINGS AND BOYCOTTS OF HOTEL AFTER PLO DELEGATION LEAVES. HE DESCRIBED SEVERAL PERSONAL EXPERIENCES INVOLVING TIGHT SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND OBSERVED THAT, ALTHOUGH PLO ITSELF MIGHT NOT APPRECIATE PROBLEM, HE DID, AND WOULD DO HIS BEST TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND ENORMOUS PROBLEMS AND THAT USG EFFORTS WERE BEING UNDERTAKEN IN SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL.

SCALI

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